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# Extension Service Review



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## Production must go forward

### Agents speed aid to overcome flood damage

Beginning in May and continuing into June agents in hundreds of Midwest counties took their places among other agencies doing their full share in battling the flood. They helped farmers to overcome the damage done and get the vitally important crops planted in spite of the flood and its aftermath. In many counties it could be said, as it was said of County Agent D. D. Brown of Warren County, Mo., "He was the first man to visit farm homes when the floodwaters in the Missouri River lowlands gradually receded, and he was the last man out in the earlier stages of the flood."

Agents have been on the job morning, noon, and night, organizing labor and machinery pools, encouraging the farmers, collecting new seed stocks, planning for the vaccination of cattle and hogs against disease, locating facilities for cleaning tractors, and, in short, finding some way to meet the 101 problems which such an emergency produces.

The neighborhood leaders, because they were ready and knew just what to do, called at once upon that good neighbor spirit of mutual helpfulness in time of trouble. In Illinois, a week before the flood tides reached their crest, 30,000 neighborhood leaders had been supplied with replanting recommendations to guide them in giving aid to their neighbors.

Neighborhood leaders were especially helpful in St. Charles County, Mo., where the Missouri River flooded 677 farms. All livestock had to be taken out and provided with temporary range on adjacent uplands. For a time it appeared that there would not be enough hay to meet the requirements of animals crowded into temporary enclosures. The upland farmers began immediately to cut alfalfa which had been held back by unseasonal cool cloudy weather. Even though it was difficult to cure this hay, it was possible to provide livestock feed for the emergency. In these operations leaders located quarters for refugee families, and shelter, range, and forage for animals. They helped the agents in gathering information about distressed farm families and damage to buildings, equipment,

machinery, levees, fences, and stocks of seed and feed.

In Arkansas extension agents worked with the Red Cross in a campaign to obtain donations of surplus garden seed. Collection depots were set up in each county. Home demonstration and 4-H Club members took the initiative in many counties, making a house-to-house canvass. Seeds poured in, some counties collecting as much as 300 pounds of seed of beans, mustard, radish, collard, corn, cucumber, cantaloupe, okra, spinach, and chard. Tomato and cabbage plants were offered in some cases. The seed collection drive was launched because preliminary surveys showed that local seed houses in some places were practically sold out of vegetable seeds, and the only sources immediately available were unplanted supplies in the hands of farm families and Victory gardeners.

The neighborly pooling of labor and machinery helped. Men on the lowland pooled their machinery and labor to help farmers on high ground get their crops in. As soon as the water receded and the ground could be worked, all went together to help get crops into the lowland fields. As many as 26 trac-

tors and outfits worked in one Illinois field at the same time.

Hundreds of tractors under water could not be used until reconditioned. The Army offered mechanics to help with this but complete mobilization of all local resources made it unnecessary to call upon the Army for this help. County machinery was used to haul farm tractors out on the road where they could be picked up by repair crews. Special labor-saving cleaning equipment was located and brought to strategic points. Extension agents, extension engineers, Army engineers, implement dealers, local mechanics, and many others cooperated in this campaign.

Needed labor came from every possible source: prisoners of war planted tomato plants in Johnson County, Ind.; at Vincennes, Ind., County Agent H. S. Benson enlisted 325 boys and girls from the high school to weed tomatoes; and Oklahoma townspeople answered agents' calls for help by volunteering to rebuild fences and remodel buildings. In Logan County, Ill., 24 businessmen—Rotarians, Kiwanians, and members of the chamber of commerce—took 2 days to canvass the entire city of Lincoln. They located 77 men with farm experience who would work after office hours and during week ends. In another Illinois county the agent and the local USES representative saved a strawberry crop by dramatic recruiting with a sound truck. A second truck followed and carried volunteers to the fields. The crop was saved.

## Canning reaches new high

Canning is in the wind these days, both on the farm and in the cities. Experienced canners, many of them trained as home demonstration club leaders, are very much in demand. Other leaders were trained this spring and are now passing on their information and skill. For example, Maine planned 450 community meetings during May, June, and July.

In New York State 50 local leaders were trained in teaching methods as well as subject matter at a training school held at Cornell University. New York City home economics teachers, OCD block leaders, and Red

Cross representatives were trained by the extension foods and nutrition specialist in the latest scientific methods of canning.

Both home demonstration agents and rural leaders are being called upon to help city Victory gardeners with their canning problems. Oklahoma included urban leaders in their spring training meetings. North Carolina added 22 new assistant home demonstration agents for the canning season while Texas added 20 and Alabama 24.

Arkansas curb markets are used as food conservation centers by both city and country women.

# Boy Scouts cut Delaware asparagus

Spring came as usual to Sussex County, Del., and found 1,000 acres of asparagus ready to be cut. Usually, about 300 additional laborers came into the county in time to cut the first asparagus and follow through with tomatoes, beans, and the other main truck crops; but this year at cutting time only 100 showed up. County Agent Frank Gordy knew that if the asparagus were wasted, the acreage of tomatoes and other crops greatly needed for the war program would not be planted. If they saw no prospect of harvesting, the farmers would not plant.

Something had to be done, so County Agent Gordy decided first to try schoolboys. He talked it over with Frederick Wellington, Scout executive for the Delmarva Peninsula, who carried the idea to a tri-State Scout meeting; and the Scouts agreed to see what they could do. The superintendent of the Wilmington schools was next interested and agreed to excuse 50 Scouts with an average of C or above in their studies from school for 2-week periods. Fifty Scouts were quickly recruited in Wilmington and vicinity.

## Boy Scouts Set Up Camp

The next job was to convince the farmers that the plan was feasible. Some farmers with fields ready to cut felt that they were too busy and harassed to bother with a crowd of inexperienced schoolboys; but Harry Cannon, with 500 acres waiting to be cut, agreed to go 100 percent with any laborers who would begin work on his asparagus fields.

The local Bridgeville Boy Scouts set up their camp for the visiting Boy Scouts from Wilmington. The Scouts are supervised both in their work and recreation by two trained Scout leaders. A vacant house was turned over to the boys for a mess house; they lived in tents and started work at 6:30 a. m. With a rest period, they worked until noon at first but later worked a few hours in the afternoon, also.

They cut 40 acres a day at first, but soon were cutting about 90 acres a day, or nearly a quarter of the Cannon crop. Mr. Cannon wrote to Director Schuster: "Our experiment with the Boy Scouts is turning out beautifully. The boys are extremely happy, working about 6 hours a day, doing a good job, and I believe very comfortably housed. They prefer to live in their own camping tents; but we have provided showers, good toilet facilities, electricity for the camp, and a very nice house with refrigeration and stoves, in which they have their meals served; and all their work is right where they live. If the boys and the Scoutmaster want to work longer than 6 hours, the work is there."

At the end of the 2-week period, the first group returned to school in Wilmington, and

the second group of 50 boys came out to the asparagus camp. Among the most skillful workers, 25 were chosen to remain and help to teach the second shift. Most of the boys are about 16 years old, though some are 12 or 13. Mr. Cannon agreed to pay the boys 40 cents an hour, the usual rate he paid his adult workers. The boys were soon cutting as much asparagus as the older workers and were doing it just as well or better, Mr. Cannon reported.

The success of the boy asparagus cutters is doing much to give local farmers confidence that their crops will be harvested if they will do their share in getting them into the ground. What H. L. Cannon says about his experience with the boys cuts more ice than any amount of talking about putting in your crops and depending on emergency labor to get them harvested, says County Agent Gordy.

One factor in the success of the venture was the active cooperation of a county labor committee of 13 farmers representing the different commodities grown in the county and the representative in the county for the United States Employment Service, the State department of public education, the Farm Security Administration, and the Extension Service. These men talked over the venture, agreed to try it out, and supported the plan in every way they could. Neighborhood leaders are also contributing to the solution of the labor difficulties by making personal con-

tact with the more than 5,000 farms in the county and collecting the facts on where and when extra labor must be had. These leaders were given some training in collecting the facts so that they would be accurate and comparable in different sections of the county. The vocational teachers, both Negro and white, cooperated wholeheartedly in working with the boys until they learned how to cut. "Instead of a very few asparagus fields knee-high in Sussex, we might have had numerous fields," reported County Agent Gordy in telling of the experiences with Scout labor.

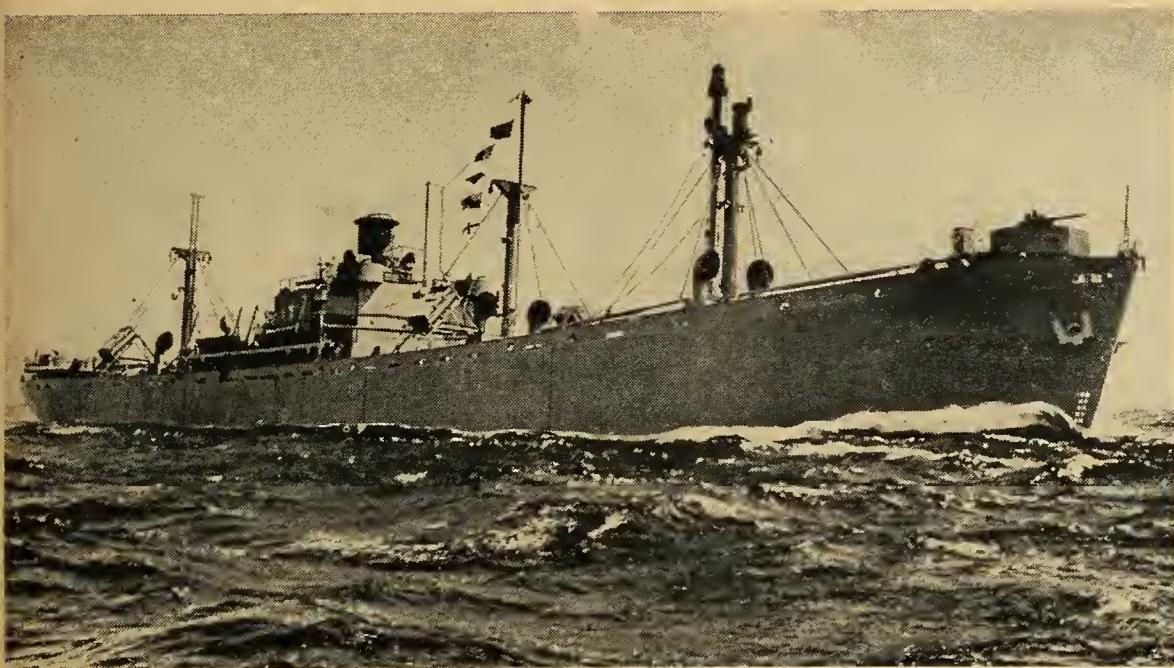
Soon after the Sussex experiment got under way, Ralph Walson, county agent of New Castle County, Del., met with his farm-labor committee to discuss the knotty labor problem of 15 tomato growers with 175 acres to be set and no labor available. They decided to ask the superintendent of schools of Middletown, Del., for help. One hundred and fifty boys and girls were recruited. They worked in crews of three, one carrying the plants, one dropping the plants, and one setting them in the soil. It took them 2 days to finish the job with the help of vocational teachers, county agent, assistant agent, and other public-spirited men.

Off to a good start, Delaware farmers looked a little more hopefully to their peak season which begins the last of June, finishing the asparagus and tomato planting, going to bean harvest, then wheat and hay. "We're going to do everything we can to get help everywhere we can," said G. M. Worrillow, associate director in charge of the labor program, and his able assistant, Frank Gordy.

"Now you have it," says County Agent Frank Gordy to a Delaware Boy Scout, who is doing his best to cut the asparagus so that none goes to waste in this year of war need.



# Georgia plans 4-H Liberty ship



■ Georgia's 102,000 4-H Club members sold and bought more than \$3,000,000 worth of war bonds during 4 weeks in April and May in a campaign to pay for a 10,000-ton \$2,000,000 Liberty ship.

The bond-selling drive which was begun in late April under the leadership of W. A. Sutton, Jr., L. W. Eberhardt, Jr., and Emmie Nelson, Georgia Extension Service club leaders, is scheduled to continue through the summer and will be climaxed when a Georgia 4-H Club girl christens the Liberty ship at a large construction yard in Savannah.

Throughout Georgia, farm boys and girls are canvassing rural communities and small towns in this bond campaign, and reports have come in from practically all counties, giving their total amounts of bonds sold. During the first 2 weeks, several counties sold more than \$200,000 worth of bonds.

Typical of the enthusiasm that club members throughout the State are showing is the following report from County Agent H. C. Williams, Barrow County. He says: "Lovic Smith, one of my 4-H Club boys, came to my office this morning and explained that he wanted to go to work on the bond-selling drive. By noon today he had sold more than \$700 worth of bonds in \$25 denominations and was still going strong."

"Lovic stated that he told his daddy this morning he wanted to come to Winder to work in the bond-selling campaign. His father replied that it was all right for him to go to town for that purpose even though the grass was growing fast."

The idea for Georgia 4-H Club members to sponsor a Liberty ship and produce enough food to fill it originated with Bill Prance, energetic farm director of Radio Station WSB in Atlanta. Each Friday is 4-H Club day on WSB'S daily Dixie Farm and Home Hour,

presented in cooperation with the Georgia Extension Service.

The entire 30-minute program is devoted to Georgia 4-H activities; and since the Liberty ship bond drive was begun several weeks ago, a main feature has been reporting individual county results of bond sales.

Station WSB provides a 20-piece orchestra for the program; and Perry Bechtel, a member of the orchestra, has written three 4-H Club songs recently, including one called "Down the Waves," especially for the Liberty ship launching. Other national and State songs are also used.

4-H Club members from a number of Georgia counties will attend the ship launching at Savannah. The club girl who christens the ship will have a matron of honor, and both will be the guests of the shipbuilding company. All club members attending the exercises will have a special police escort to and from the shipyards.

All persons purchasing war bonds in the Liberty-ship campaign are given an attractive certificate showing a picture of the Liberty ship, explaining that Georgia now has more than 100,000 4-H Club members, and expressing appreciation for the help given the 4-H Club program in the State.

The Liberty ship will be named the S.S. *Hoke Smith* in honor of the late Georgia Senator Hoke Smith, coauthor of the act of Congress creating the Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service, of which 4-H Club work is a part. Marion Smith, son of the former senator, is now chairman of the State board of regents of the university system of Georgia.

In connection with the bond campaign, the Georgia boys and girls pledged to produce enough food to fill the ship—10,000 tons. This food-production program is a part of a

State-wide 4-H Club drive to grow enough food for sale to feed the men in the armed forces from Georgia.

Early in the year, Georgia club members decided to concentrate on producing pork, beef, eggs, poultry, peanuts, Irish potatoes, and sweetpotatoes. Markets are usually available for all these products.

Food-production records based on service units, or the amount of each of these foods required by one man in the armed forces in a year, are being kept. State winners will be given prizes in war bonds by a large chain-grocery concern.

Service units in the seven food products chosen are as follows: 150 pounds of beef, 80 pounds of pork, 45 pounds of poultry, 35 dozen eggs, 250 pounds of Irish potatoes, 25 pounds of sweetpotatoes, and 250 pounds of shelled peanuts. Individual club members may produce all or any one of these products, but all members from each county will try to produce enough of all the products to feed the servicemen from that county.

## Waste corners give war crops

Michigan's waste farm land loses some of its poor reputation after a look at the meat, fur, wild fruits, and recreation that such otherwise idle land is offering during war months.

A suggestion that untilled areas on farms receive protection comes from R. G. Hill, zoology specialist, representing the Michigan Extension Service and the State Conservation Department.

In 1942, he points out, this so-called waste land produced more than 7 million pounds of dressed meat from small game and fur animals. An estimated 800,000 fur animals were trapped on Michigan farms and used, in part, for fur vests for the American Merchant Marine service. From other un-plowed areas came crops of cranberries, blueberries, wild grapes, wild blackberries, and dewberries. Gullies and other eroded areas on farms may also contribute to this production if vegetation is encouraged.

Farmers can protect the sources of this meat, fur, and fruit. Such spots should not be pastured and should not be burned. On marshes, according to Mr. Hill, a minimum depth of 4 to 6 inches of water will aid fur animals and waterfowl and keep the marsh from being just a mudhole.

Feathers from waterfowl are needed in war. Such feathers substitute for those of the wild eider duck usually obtained from Iceland and Norway. Short body feathers of ducks and geese are proving a satisfactory substitute for lining sleeping bags and for clothing for flyers who soar into the chill of the high altitudes.

Even the fishing done on farm ponds comes under the heading of wartime economy, combining recreation with a search for unrationed meat, according to Mr. Hill.



## Relocating a farm population

DILLON S. MYER, the War Relocation Authority

"A better public understanding of the Japanese relocation problems will promote the fullest utilization of the Nation's manpower," says Dillon S. Myer who enlists the cooperation of extension workers. He, himself, is a veteran extension worker of 18 years' experience in Indiana and Ohio. He came to Washington as chief of the compliance section of AAA in 1934, and then served as division chief and assistant chief of the Soil Conservation Service and later as assistant administrator of ACAA until his appointment as director of WRA in June 1942.

land, and New York City—each having from two to nine branch offices operating under it in the surrounding area. An office in Little Rock, Ark., supplies similar services to interested people in the South. These offices are the contact points for all individuals and agencies, including agricultural extension offices, concerned with the employment of evacuees in the areas where they operate.

During the spring and summer of 1942, a large number of farmers and farm workers were removed from agricultural production along the Pacific coast in connection with the mass migration of approximately 110,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry whose evacuation was ordered by the commanding general of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army. They were placed in 10 wartime communities known as relocation centers. No charges of subversive activity against the national security were made against them; they were moved simply as a matter of military expediency.

These agricultural workers were widely recognized to be able and industrious tillers of the soil. In California, western Washington and Oregon, and southern Arizona, they had made the valleys green with productive fields and orchards. Today, several thousands are continuing agricultural production work on farms in the West and throughout the country.

The policy of the War Relocation Authority is to urge all employable residents of the centers who qualify for indefinite leave to move into outside employment as rapidly as suitable work opportunities can be found for them. Every individual who receives an indefinite leave has been investigated with regard to his loyalty and background. The records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been checked as a part of this investigation.

The resettlement of these people in normal community life is the chief objective of the War Relocation Authority, and a Nation-wide organization has been developed to aid them in adjusting themselves to the communities where they relocate. Six principal relocation offices have been established—in Salt Lake City, Denver, Kansas City, Chicago, Cleve-

Much progress has been made in developing opportunities for the relocation center residents to assist in relieving the manpower shortage, especially in the Middle West and Rocky Mountain States. One of the first needs was to make prospective employers understand the nature of the relocation centers and the status of the people in them. There has been considerable public confusion, which still persists, concerning the differences between relocation centers, which are merely way stations operated by WRA for evacuees passing through the relocation process, and internment camps where persons considered dangerous to the national security are held in the custody of the Department of Justice.

One condition which has impeded the progress of resettlement is rooted in the psychology of the evacuated people. Many fears and uncertainties have made them hesitant to leave the centers. Departing for outside employment meant severing themselves from relatives and friends and leaving behind the only security that seemed to remain for them after the evacuation. They feared racial antagonisms and social isolation. With only a rare opportunity now and then to meet the employers who wanted to hire them or to see the places where they were asked to work, many have been understandably uncertain about accepting the opportunities offered.

In spite of these misgivings, however, a large number of workers have left the centers for outside employment. Last fall, approximately 10,000 of them volunteered to help in saving the sugar-beet harvest in the Rocky Mountain region. They were credited with harvesting about 990,000 tons of beets—enough to produce approximately 297 million pounds of sugar.

The fear psychology among the people in relocation centers is being approached in two ways. An intensive effort has been organized to bring to the evacuees a better understanding of conditions outside the centers, to reassure them with accurate information about the experiences that await them when they return to normal ways of living, and to help them realize the long-range wisdom of participating in the resettlement program. At the same time, efforts have also been made to develop public sentiment which would encourage them to leave the centers. These two efforts have gone hand in hand, and they must continue to go hand in hand. The former approach is the responsibility of the War Relocation Authority; the other is, and should be, shared by every agency concerned in obtaining the fullest utilization of the Nation's manpower.

By the middle of May, about 6,500 evacuees were employed in agriculture outside the centers. Approximately 5,000 had enlisted for seasonal employment, mainly in the sugar-beet areas; and the others had been granted indefinite leaves for year-round farm work in the Middle West and the Intermountain region. These figures should be interpreted in the light of the fact that probably not more than 20,000 trained farm workers of all ages were in the centers at the beginning.

The seasonal employment program has presented some difficult problems. Americans of Japanese ancestry have never been nomadic laborers of the type that produced seasonal farm workers before the war. Most of them owned small farms and truck gardens and made a practice of staying close to home. When they were moved to the relocation centers, they went as families, and family solidarity is a notable characteristic among Americans of Japanese descent. Few of them can be successfully employed for very long when they are separated from wives, children, and other members of their families.

On the other hand, work opportunities that induce them to bring their families with them are much more likely to result in successful relocation. They leave the centers with a feeling of greater personal stability, and the outlook for satisfactory adjustment

is greatly improved. In many instances already on record, they have settled into friendly social relationships in communities where originally considerable opposition has developed against their coming.

There is need for a wider public recognition that nearly two-thirds of the evacuees are native-born American citizens who, under the Constitution and laws of our country, are entitled to the same consideration as Americans of any other ancestry. In the words of President Roosevelt, "Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution—whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, Government service, or other work essential to the war effort."

There are, today, in Camp Shelby, Miss., approximately 1,000 young Japanese-American soldiers from the relocation centers training for combat service against our Nation's enemies. When they heard the news of

Tokyo's executions of American flyers, they answered by pledging to buy, with other Japanese-American soldiers from Hawaii, more than \$100,000 worth of war bonds. Japanese-American soldiers are serving our country on almost every front throughout the world. Three of them have been decorated by the Army.

The program of the War Relocation Authority to find opportunities where the evacuees can make their greatest contribution to the war effort has been approved by the War Department, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the War Manpower Commission. It is important to the food-for-victory program that every farmer in the relocation centers with a sound record of behavior should be productively employed. Bottling up the skills of these people merely because they are racially related to an enemy nation would be clearly inconsistent with American principles of fair play. Giving them an opportunity, on the other hand, to lead normal lives and to contribute their energies in the battle of production is not only the decent thing to do; it is, I think, sound American common sense.

is being assisted by trade center committees in placing men.

Ward Foster had needed a man on his farm near Gibbon all spring but did not know where to apply. After the program was under way, he came to me, and I recommended George Mast who was farming 20 acres—not enough to meet the unit requirements. Mast and his wife now are helping to produce crops and considerable livestock on Foster's 240-acre farm.

## Day nurseries for children of harvest workers

During the summer of 1942, before crops were harvested, the growers who realized their need for more help worked through the Manpower Commission to request assistance in establishing nursery schools so that women could be freed to help with the harvest.

A committee was called of growers and heads of organized groups, including the Agricultural Extension Service, the County Welfare Department, WPA, PTA, and women's clubs. This committee selected one leader to delegate duties to different members of the committee, and in this way each group helped with the organization. Three nursery schools were set up giving all-day care which included three meals. School buildings were used for all three schools. WPA cooks and surplus commodities were available at that time. In two nursery schools, supervisors were paid by WPA; but in one, the supervisor's salary was paid by the growers, and that school was sponsored by the farm bureau. A very small fee was charged for each child.

The home demonstration agent met with the committees in an advisory capacity and at times visited the nursery schools to help with selection of equipment and to give suggestions in menu planning.

The nursery schools proved to be an effective means of freeing between 75 and 100 women for work in the harvest at a time when crops would have been wasted unless additional help had been available.

One story has come to me of a young man and his wife who had the opportunity to be crew bosses, provided that their two children could be taken care of in the nursery school. This woman was exceptionally capable and was the first woman chosen to act as a crew boss. Because she did not have the care and worry of her children, she was able to perform her duties as well as a man who might have held her position.

As a result of the success of these nursery schools in 1942, plans are now under way for the establishment of more nursery schools in the areas where the help of women will be needed in the harvest.—Marion C. Burgess, home demonstration agent, Merced County, Calif.

## Finding farm help

CECIL FAUSCH, County Agent, Sibley County, Minn.

Sibley County is doing something about the problem of losing young men to the Army at the expense of farm production.

This "something" is cooperation between existing agencies in the county, and it has resulted in filling more than 300 farm jobs with men of farm experience or ability.

The keystone is the Extension Service, but it never could have been done without the help of the Selective Service Board, the United States Employment Service, county welfare supervisors, and—perhaps most important of all—many citizens' committees in the towns around here.

Last fall, farmers of the county became concerned over the number of boys leaving farms when drafted or to take jobs in defense industries. A conference resulted between the draft board, welfare supervisors, and employment service.

Out of this came an agreement to have the draft board turn over to the county agent the names of all 1-A men who had farm experience.

I wrote to each of these 1-A men, explaining that they were subject to Army duty because they were employed in nonessential work or were on farms where the number of units of production were not enough to justify their staying. Enclosed was a card, asking the man's family status and whether he would prefer going into the Army or moving onto a farm where his help was needed.

More than 250 replied that they were willing to serve their country by producing food. Their cards were turned over to farmers who needed help, and the men were employed.

This is how the plan worked: A young railroad worker was classified 1-A. He had had some farm experience. George Nelson who operates two large farms needed a hand. The boy was recommended to Nelson. Because Nelson could not accommodate both the young man and his wife at the farm, the young man went to work on the farm, and his wife lives and works in the city. Nelson says the young man is one of the best hired men he has ever had.

The welfare office looked up able-bodied men on pensions who might take part-time work, filling in for men who might be ill. Some who felt they could handle light jobs regularly were taken off pension lists for the duration. Elmo Downs of Blakeley hired a man over 65 for yard work.

Day laborers were put on full-time jobs through the help of businessmen in each of the towns. The men handling the job are: John Kiecker, Gibbon; Carl Hanson, Winthrop; Charles Strobel, Arlington; William Kroonblad, Green Isle; Allie Wigand, Henderson; Emil Albrecht, New Auburn; and the county agent at Gaylord.

The program now has been brought into line with the plan of Paul E. Miller, director of the State farm help program, tying in the loose ends. The county farm help committee

# Farm fire control corps works in Arkansas

The farm fire control corps goes forward. As action speaks louder than words—with the armed forces, so farm folks of Arkansas organized in fire-fighting crews are going into action with real achievements. Their slogan is "Be alert with fire; every building and every tree saved—count." This is a wartime measure under the Defense Council of Arkansas.

Since the program was launched in this State last September, an estimated 500 registered fire crews have been organized in about 50 counties of the State, representing approximately 7,000 farm families. By November 7, last fall, 355 crews had been organized in 43 counties.

The farm fire control corps is a coordinated program of the several State and Federal agencies. With Assistant Extension Director Aubrey D. Gates as chairman of the State committee of Farm Fire Control Corps, the other members of the committee are: L. A. Henry, secretary of the Defense Council of Arkansas; Forest Supervisors Phillip H. Bryan and W. C. Branch; State Forester Fred H. Lang; H. A. Ritgerod of the Fire Insurance Agencies, and Extension Forester Frederick J. Shulley.

## Fire Crews Are Trained

The purpose of the farm fire control corps is to organize and train farm folks as registered fire crews in neighborhoods for fire protection on the farmstead and in the farm timberland.

Every 15 minutes a farm building burns in the Nation. Intensive forest fire protection has become an important element in national defense. In wartime, with the possibility of incendiary bombing and ground sabotage, the need for widespread civilian participation in the fight against fire is imperative.

The annual national loss from fires on farms and in rural communities amounts to 3,500 lives and 225 million dollars worth of property. Every farmer pays \$16 a year as a hidden fire tax. Each year 175,000 forest fires burn in the Nation. State Forester Fred Lang reports that 2,481 forest fires burned 107,282 acres in the first 3 months of this year in his protective area of the State.

Volunteer crews of farm fire control corps are the third line of defense to the crews organized by the United States Forest Service and the second line of defense to the crews organized by the Arkansas Forestry Commission. In other sections of Arkansas, these volunteer crews are the first line of defense.

Definite action has been taken by these neighborhood registered fire crews in extinguishing fires which were destroying farm homes and in suppressing forest fires which were destroying valuable timber.

Four members of the Teel Home Demonstration Club, Perry County, prepared food and took it to the men on the Rose Creek fire crew who had been working for 3 days in February suppressing a 720-acre forest fire. The fire crew was assisted by Ted Hogan, Perry County ranger of the Arkansas Forestry Commission. The crew in extinguishing the fire saved a good farmhouse, a barn with 1,000 bales of hay, another barn with 500 bales, and a vast acreage of timber.

Otis Elliott, crew captain of the Beacon Hill fire crew, Sevier County, and 14 members, including several women, suppressed a forest fire in their neighborhood February 14, which was a particularly bad fire day. Several fires were burning, and District Forester Curtis Coffman of the Arkansas Forestry Commission was busy with his equipment and men suppressing these fires. When he arrived at the fire in the Beacon Hill neighborhood, he was relieved to find that Mr. Elliott's crew had the fire under control. Here is a fine example of how the volunteer crews of the farm fire control corps should be coordinated with the crews of the State or Federal fire-control systems.

Alva Askew, home demonstration agent in Searcy County, practices what she preaches. On her way from organizing the Pine Bluff fire crew, she discovered a 5-acre forest fire along the highway. She obtained four volunteers and directed the suppression of the fire, similar to the instructions she gave the Pine Bluff crew.

## Ladders Are Important

The value of a ladder for farm buildings was emphasized recently when an elderly lady, Mrs. Grover Campbell of Lamar, Johnson County, hailed County Agent G. J. Greene as he was driving along the road. Mr. Campbell was away from home, and the three children were in school. She said her house was on fire. Mr. Greene and a few other men formed a bucket line from the well to the foot of the ladder, up the ladder, and on to the roof. They put out the fire and saved the home, but without the ladder it might have been a different story. In the Antioch community of Perry County, the registered fire crew tried to put out a fire in a home. As there was no ladder available, the home with its contents burned. Although the fire was discovered while it was still very small, without a ladder it was impossible to carry

water upon the roof fast enough to put out the fire.

Fourteen registered fire crews of the farm fire control corps have been organized in Johnson County. Assistance was obtained from Lurline Cagle, home demonstration agent, Bruce Alter, district forester, and Warren Stewart of the Soil Conservation Service.

The crews in Stone County suppressed five forest fires this spring. The Richwoods town fire chief instructed the fire crews in methods of fighting house and barn fires.

One Sunday afternoon in December, the Pine Ridge fire crew of Polk County went into action with 10 members present. The crew captain was notified of the outbreak of the fire and summoned the other members as quickly as possible. This fire was endangering a thousand acres of timber but was brought under control after it burned over 7 acres. The crew used hose, garden rakes, shovels, and axes in suppressing this fire, and worked 3 hours.

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Jordan, 4-H Club leaders in Gilbert neighborhood, Searcy County, were responsible for the organization of the first registered fire crew in the State, July 18, 1942. They attended a "mock fire" demonstration at a district forestry meeting in the spring of 1941. Later, they arranged for the same demonstration for their county 4-H rally and their neighborhood 4-H Club. In the fall of 1941, they bought five council fire rakes and organized a fire-fighting crew. Their efforts and interest paved the way for this first registered fire crew of the farm fire-control corps.

## Fire Crews Organized in Searcy County

A concentrated effort to organize registered fire crews was made in Searcy County by Home Demonstration Agent Alva Askew and County Agent C. W. Bedell. Miss Askew included it as a definite demonstration to be given in each of the 20 home demonstration clubs in the county this past March. Mr. Bedell, at the joint neighborhood meetings with the women, developed the crews from the farmers, under the leadership of local farm bureaus. By this joint work, 12 registered fire crews have been organized.

One of the best meetings held was when the number four and five crews of the corps in the State were organized with the Beech Grove and the Cass crews in Franklin County September 23. This was really a forestry meeting out in the forest. About 60 farm folks, men and women and boys and girls, met along a country road with representatives of the United States Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, and Extension Service. People from two neighborhoods were present, so a crew was organized for each neighborhood. Each crew elected a man as crew captain and a woman as assistant crew captain. Troy Curtis, ranger of Ozark National Forest, had fire tools available. He

equipped the two crews with fire rakes and then had a mock fire demonstration. All participated very enthusiastically in this demonstration.

In Columbia County, 81 registered fire crews, including 18 Negro crews, were organized, covering 78 percent of the land area of the county within 2½ months by the co-ordinated efforts of County Agent John Dodson, Home Demonstration Agent Mrs. Beatrice Bryson, District Forester J. L. Mercer, and Negro County Agent W. R. Dansby. Most of these crews had a "taste" of fighting fire this spring and are now planning on more fire drills to improve their efficiency.

Forty-six members of the Hermitage FFA Chapter, Bradley County, were organized into seven registered fire crews, to be available at any time for fighting fires. These crews were organized by A. L. Hollingsworth, vocational agriculture teacher; County Agent K. J. Bilbrey; and District Forester Langston.

County Agent E. W. Loudermilk reported that a fire-control campaign was started throughout Nevada County for the prevention and control of fires in both the home and timberland. The county was organized into fire-control districts.

Eighteen registered fire crews, under crew captains, of the farm fire control corps, were organized, comprising 235 men in 53 neighborhoods. A mock fire demonstration was held in each ranger's district as a training meeting on prevention and control of forest fires. Two hundred and nine school children received training in this work.

In Clay County, Mrs. Lola Lehman, home

demonstration agent, used Extension Leaflet 42, Safety From Fires in Farm Buildings, at each of the 42 clubs in the county.

Enoch Reaves, captain of Cave Creek crew, Independence County, showed his initiative by deciding to use Mrs. Modlin's dinner bell as a fire signal for the crew members. He is also planning to make fire rakes from old mower cutter bars.

County Agent C. L. Rogers, Garland County, reported that in October representatives of the United States Forest Service, Defense Council, Forestry Commission, United States Park Service, and Extension Service met in the county agent's office. This committee analyzed the county fire situation and decided to organize 13 neighborhood registered fire crews under neighborhood crew captains. This committee made the following list of farm tools that could be used in fighting fire: Gee-whiz, potato hook, garden rake, shovels, axes, grub hoe, saw, garden spray, brush hooks, hoes, buckets, and plow.

The Shark crew, Yell County, agreed that each member should have some type of gong (bell, circular saw, piece of grader blade), a ladder, a bucket, and a barrel of water available at all times. They decided to check within 3 weeks to see if every member is qualifying as to this fire-fighting equipment.

The three registered fire crews in Crittenden County emphasized the twofold purpose of the program, that even with the absence of big timber areas there is still need for crews to protect farm buildings, barns, gins, and other buildings from fire.

which he gains in having accomplished something worth while makes him more willing instead of less willing to do something in the future.

"We feel that we have a very fine victory garden program in this county. The county is strictly rural, with no towns within the county large enough to be cities. We selected a farm Victory Garden leader in each of the 13 townships and a town Victory Garden leader in each of the 13 small towns in the county. There is no problem of obtaining garden plots, men to plow the plots, seed, or fertilizer. Our program will not be intensified like those in the cities. We ask each leader to present the problem in all local meetings such as parent-teacher, grange, gleaners, farm bureau, church groups, and businessmen's clubs. We felt that the main thing was to inform the public of the need. Most of them know how to garden. A good example of the effectiveness is the work of Mrs. Leo Connolly, leader for the small town of Colton. There are 32 families in this town, and Mrs. Connolly has obtained the promise of all 32 families, 100 percent, that they will have gardens this year; and she has supplied them with the Victory Garden bulletins and other information."

## Indiana's best seller

Approximately 15,000 Indiana farm account books, prepared and distributed by the Purdue University agricultural extension service have been sold this year, as compared with 8,000 in 1942. It is estimated that another 1,000 will be sold throughout the year.

This book has two primary uses. First, it enables the farmer to analyze his business in a businesslike way. At the end of the year, he may go to the office of the county agricultural agent and obtain a summary showing, from an analysis of a given number of records, what the most successful and least successful farms in his area are doing.

These summaries are set up for each type of farm in the State. Small, medium, and large farms are handled separately. In this way, each farmer is able to obtain a report of the most successful and nonsuccessful farms corresponding exactly to the type and size of his own farm. Complete information is given on the handling of livestock and crops, financial methods, and miscellaneous business.

The second use of the Indiana farm account book is as a record from which to make income-tax returns. It is set up with this purpose in mind and, therefore, is well suited for this use. During the present period, when tax exemptions are low and interest and tax rates high, it is necessary that every farmer have a full and complete set of records from which to prepare his income-tax report. The Indiana farm account book fills this need.

## Henry County, Ohio, has efficient neighborhood leaders

■ Neighborhood leaders are cooperating 100 percent in Henry County, Ohio. E. H. Bond, county agent, wrote Director Ramsower what a big help the neighborhood-leader system has been since it was organized in May 1942.

"We organized our neighborhood-leader system thoroughly at that time, and it was a lot of work; but it has saved many times the original work in many projects since that time. We organized 100 percent, with a farmer, a farmer's wife, and older youth in each of 109 country school districts, 2 miles square, plus 3 township leaders, or a total of 366. Recently, we revised our list, to keep it up to date and ready to function. We found about 50 changes, mainly young men and women who had gone to the Army or were working away from home.

"Another example of the efficiency of this system was the appointment of 225 farm

men and women for the April war-bond campaign. I was asked to act as chairman of the rural campaign. I mailed cards to the 109 neighborhoods, requesting appointment of war-bond canvassers. Neighborhood leaders received the cards, contacted canvassers, and mailed back the names, all in 1 week. To me, the remarkable thing was the speed and the 100-percent cooperation. Usually a few leaders from among this number fail to function. Some will say that there is danger of loading up these leaders with so much work that they will refuse to function. We have used judgment in not asking them to do the unreasonable since we organized last May, but a number of neighborhood leaders have complained at various times that we have not given them enough to do to help in the war effort. I learned a long time ago that one way to make a good leader is to give him something to do, and the satisfaction

# A close-up of the labor situation in northeastern South Dakota

The value of local examples in interpreting national situations is ably proved in these excerpts from a series of articles prepared by John M. Ryan, extension editor, South Dakota, and widely used by the press of the State.

■ By putting the entire family to work practically night and day, farmers in northeastern South Dakota think they can get all of this spring's crop into the ground; but it is going to be up to town people, high-school boys, and whatever supplementary labor is available to help get it harvested and threshed.

That seems to be the general opinion of approximately 30 farmers in Edmunds, Day, and Codington Counties.

By superhuman efforts, farmers in those counties are increasing their production of practically all farm products called for by the Government. They are making these increases despite the fact that a boy has left practically every farm to enter the Army.

In Edmunds County, corn acreage is increased 28 percent this year; oats, 36 percent; barley, 44; cattle, 6; sheep, 5; baby chicks, 104; spring sow farrowing, 65 percent; fall farrowings, 159; and flax acreage, 147 percent.

This increase of livestock and crop acreage is not being made by plowing up ad-

ditional land but by putting land which previously lay idle into production this year. Decreases in rye, sorghums, millet, sudan grass, and alfalfa have also released more land.

How has it been possible to make these increases with so many boys in the Army? Take the case of E. L. Friedrichsen, a large operator in the southern part of the county.

Mr. Friedrichsen has two boys in the Army who formerly helped on the farm. Last winter the family reduced their ewes from 100 to 50, cut the cattle herd from 60 to 40, but increased the number of hogs. This year Mr. Friedrichsen planted his normal acreage with the help of his father, who is 77; his brother, Emil; and Mrs. Friedrichsen.

"The whole family gets up at 5 o'clock every morning, and we work until at least 9 every evening and hurry all the time," Mr. Friedrichsen said. "I don't believe we do quite so good a job of farming as we would if we had plenty of help but we just have to do it any way we can."

Despite his 16-hour day in which "I hurry

South Dakota's Byron Jones, a wounded veteran of World War I, always flies an American flag on his tractor. "The Old Flag means a lot to me," he says. He buys three new flags a year to keep one flying on the tractor.



all the time," Mr. Friedrichsen finds time to act as an Extension Service neighborhood leader and, as such, just recently completed canvassing his neighborhood in the war-bond drive.

He thinks that high-school boys would be helpful in solving farm-labor problems if they had some training. He had two boys last summer in threshing who were of little use when they first came out, but after a little training and patience they developed into valuable hands.

Reuben Kirschenmann, a neighbor of Mr. Friedrichsen, agrees that the high-school boys and other help from town would greatly assist.

"I can teach anyone to work on the farm if he is willing to work," he says. "The big thing is, he must be willing. I should be glad to get hold of anyone who wants to work, and I should appreciate anybody who tries to help me. Work on the farm with the modern machinery we have now is not hard."

Mr. Kirschenmann has reduced his farm this year by 170 acres; but another neighbor is now farming that part, so the land is not idle. He has 600 acres of small grain and 100 acres of corn which he is putting in with the help of one man. He has maintained the same number of livestock as last year with the exception of hogs. He has 17 brood sows this year—8 more than last year.

## Girls Needed To Work in Homes

It would help to solve Mr. Kirschenmann's problem if he could hire a girl to work in the house. That would allow his wife to do some of the outside work that a town girl would not know how to do.

Another neighbor who also thinks that a girl to look after the house and the children would be enormously helpful is Gerald Ryman. Mrs. Ryman has always been a "home lady" taking care of the house, but this spring she has been helping with the lambing, which is practically a full-time job now. So far, they have not been able to hire a girl.

Mr. Ryman thinks that businessmen coming out from town are of great help to farmers during harvest and threshing; but the 30 miles he lives from Ipswich, 25 from Bowdle, and 15 from Roscoe rule out much hope for help in that direction.

The Ryman family is on the go from 6:30 a. m. until long after dark with the tractor at work in the field from sunup to sundown. The son, 12, and daughter, 10, assist in the house before and after school to help their mother who is busy out of doors. With the help of the children, the family have been able to milk as many cows this year as formerly.

A good example of a farmer who had this extra help during harvest last year is Frank Schwab, Edmunds County farmer. Last harvest, 24 men from Aberdeen came out to his place one night, and 12 men each succeeding



By hurrying all the time from 5 a. m. to 9 p. m. E. L. Friedrichsen and his brother Emil are keeping their South Dakota farm producing while Mr. Friedrichsen's two sons are in the Army. Mrs. Friedrichsen and the father, 77 years old, each carry a man's full load.

night, until they had shocked 350 acres of grain. He lives 14 miles from Aberdeen.

"I don't know what I should have done without their help," he says. "They saved my crop for me. I paid them \$177 in regular wages and was glad to because they saved my crop. I also paid the men who drove their cars extra. I tried to show them that I appreciated it."

Mr. Schwab is farming 600 acres this year, getting along with one hired man. Formerly he farmed 900 acres and always had two men. He has one son who is a ferry pilot in the Army and a daughter who is a member of the Navy WAVES.

He would like to hire a high-school boy in haying time, and believes that if he hired him early, he would have him trained so that he would be of value on the combine during harvest. He finds that high-school boys learn easily and quickly to work on the farm.

Byron Jones, who farms near Ipswich, is another man who believes that high-school boys and other people from town must provide much of the harvest help this summer. He is not one who believes that they are of little value. He says, "Whatever they do is a help to us."

Mr. Jones has made a 50-foot-wide harrow and uses a 14-foot disk and drill pulled together to speed up the work this year. Mr. Jones carries an American flag constantly on his tractor, buying three flags a year. He was wounded in France in 1918 and, as he says: "The Old Flag means a lot to me. I think it inspires me when I'm tired."

The Ipswich city schools have a "speed-up" program in operation which will allow high-

school students to complete their work earlier, so they can get out and help on the farm. R. W. Dennis, superintendent, reports that 25 boys, including 8 or 9 town boys, are taking advantage of this program. Seventy-five percent of the 154 students in high school are from the farm.

Farmers are among the most ingenious people in the world. W. G. Long, who farms 7 miles south of Webster, is showing how farm-labor needs can be more evenly spaced over the year, solving a great many labor problems.

Mr. Long is planting 200 acres of corn this year, but he has the corn in five small fields so that it may be "hogged off, cattled off, and sheeped off" to save labor. He has the fields planned so that each unit can be hogged off separately without interfering with the remainder or making the building of new fences necessary.

He has also planned his small-grain crop so that the harvest will be spread out. His barley will be ready to harvest first, then his oats, then his wheat, and lastly his 200 acres of flax. Last year it all came at once, but he thinks he has that fixed this year. By this means, he believes he will save the work of 2 men during harvest.

He is building a bucker on an old truck to use in threshingtime to bring the shocks up to the machine, and thinks he can save the need of four bundle wagons in that way.

"No help is going to come to us right out of the blue sky," Mr. Long declares, "and we must solve a lot of our problems ourselves. Careful planning will solve a lot of labor problems which look hard now."

## Using Negro leaders

All communities with 10 or more Negro farm families in Conecuh and Escambia Counties, Ala., have Negro neighborhood leaders. There are 24 communities and 105 neighborhoods, with 248 community and neighborhood leaders. These leaders have been furnished with a list of all farm families under their leadership.

They have distributed information by circular letters, bulletins, and pamphlets; they have gathered together large groups of people to meet the agents when meetings are called, planning the meeting places and helping to obtain needed materials for demonstrations.

Leaders who have a knowledge of some craft or improved home or farm practice give instructions at meetings called by the leaders. At other times, subject matter for the month is sent from the agent's office to the leaders in advance for study.

Local training meetings have been held where leaders meet to spend a day, assisting in giving demonstrations, asking questions, taking notes, and learning more about their jobs in order to go back home and help their neighbors.

At a recent leadership school in Conecuh County, the agents, assisted by the State agents from Tuskegee Institute, L. C. Hanna and R. C. Coleman, met with leaders from 5 communities and 12 neighborhoods. These leaders worked with the agents in giving all the demonstrations, so that they might "learn to do by doing."

Demonstrations were made, and lessons on making yeast breads and cheese, on egg grading and preservation, gardening, and rope making were taught. Rope making was given by Grady Gant, neighborhood leader and young and energetic farmer of Fruitdale.

## 300 Scouts ready for work

"We have guaranteed our county agents the services of 300 Scouts, with all necessary field equipment and leadership, to help whenever and wherever they are needed in the food-production effort of this region."

That report was given by C. W. Woodson, executive of the Potawatomi area Boy Scout Council, to the Wisconsin Extension Service.

The Potawatomi area group, which takes in scouts from Waukesha, Dodge, Jefferson, and Walworth Counties, Wis., has also contacted employment service officials in Waukesha and Watertown and promised to help in any way those officials suggest.

Mr. Woodson believes that Scouts will be especially valuable in furnishing portable labor camps, with Scout leaders at work along with the boys. He said:

"We're keeping in particularly close touch with the Waukesha County agent, J. F. Thomas, and getting ready to help whenever he calls on us."

# Planning saves labor on fruit farms

HAROLD BROGGER, Research Planning Specialist, USDA

Harold Brogger is a member of the staff of the Department of Agriculture Field Office in Wenatchee, Wash., and has given special assistance in the solution of farm-labor problems in the fruit areas of the State. The field office has been established to coordinate the relationships and activities of farm families, rural and industrial organizations, and public and private agencies in connection with fruit problems in the Pacific Northwest. The Extension Service led in organizing grower land-use planning committees in the Wenatchee and Okanogan fruit area, which developed proposed recommendations for a long-range program to solve critical fruit industry problems.

Labor efficiency is not something that just happens. It is the result of careful planning and a thorough carrying out of the plans. A comprehensive program of improved orchard practices, community and district-wide orchard sanitation, and integration of business services, such as packing, warehousing, supplies, marketing, and production financing, were included in the long-range plans of the land-use planning committees in the Wenatchee and Okanogan fruit area.

In July 1942, the District Land Use Planning Committee approved a plan presented by its labor subcommittee to establish an over-all district farm-labor program. This was organized and carried out by the Farm Labor Supply Council which comprises LUP committeemen, large growers, public agencies, and businessmen. Coordination of local organizations and public agencies in dealing with mobilization of nonfarm people in the district, housing, transportation, and procurement of labor from urban areas, other out-of-district areas in the State, and from the Midwest were successfully accomplished by this program. Since December 1943, the educational subcommittee of the Farm-Labor Supply Council has been developing job training and studying and illustrating labor-saving techniques by means of slow and standard motion pictures in an effort to obtain greater productivity of labor and to save man-hours.

The lay-out of an orchard, the timing of operations, and the intelligent management of all activities in growing and harvesting a crop are powerful factors in influencing the final output of each worker on a fruit farm. What you do, when you do it, and whom you have to do it rank high as labor savers in the estimation of the educational committee of the Farm Labor Supply Council. Here is some tangible evidence:

The importance of tree spacing, for example, was not well recognized when many of the orchards were planted. As a result, trees in many orchards are too tall and frequently produce a low grade of fruit be-

cause of crowded trees. The tree fruit branch experiment station in Wenatchee conducted an experiment on reducing the number of trees from 54 to the acre to 27. During the first 2 or 3 years the 27 trees as compared with the original stand of 54 trees did not produce so many bushels of fruit per acre, but the quality, color, and uniformity of size obtained resulted in a net return greater than that received in previous years. After a period, usually of not more than 3 years, production on a high-producing orchard with open planting will be equal to or greater in bushels per acre than with close planting. Approximately 40 percent less labor was required to produce a crop through harvest on the open planting than on the close planting, for the first 3 years after spacing. It is estimated that 75 percent of the growers in this district have carried out a tree-spacing program this year.

## Cooperative Purchases Brush Shredder

A community cooperative of about 40 growers has purchased a brush shredder which has reduced the labor required to rake, haul and burn brush after pruning. On the experiment station, 72 man-hours were used in connection with the operation of the brush shredder as compared with approximately 120 hours needed for raking, hauling, and burning brush. The cost was \$132, including per hour use of the machine as compared with the cost of \$158 for raking, hauling, and burning brush, which includes a \$2 an hour cost for use of the tractor and equipment.

In addition to the saving in man-hours, the brush shredder leaves organic material for use in soil building for which the Agricultural Conservation Program pays growers at the rate of \$3 an acre. The operation of the brush shredder also diminishes the hazard to the cover crop which is experienced during brush raking by tractor and brush rake.

In pruning, man-hours can be saved by having the heavy cutting done by a skilled man, and the lopper work by an unskilled man. The exact amount of man-hours saved by

this method has not been determined, but many growers are following this practice. Another practice that saves labor on pruning is to remove all tree stumps, which eliminates the necessity for trimming the stumps.

By proper timing of sprays and thoroughness in spraying, the number of cover sprays can be reduced. However, no experimental data are available on this practice, because relative conditions relating to weather and various intangibles make it difficult to apply any set of principles to all orchards and to all growing seasons.

Spray programs can be made less costly and in turn require fewer man-hours by an organized program of community-wide orchard sanitation, such as has been carried out in this district by the community land-use planning committees. This program requires a definite effort to remove abandoned orchards and clean up all sources where overwintering larvae may exist.

Better financing has enabled many growers to apply the best-recommended practices in insect control in contrast to former years when inadequate financing would not provide such funds to carry out an adequate program. Better prices have also had their effect on providing adequate funds for financing spray programs. An adequate spray program will also reduce the number of culls and, consequently, save time incident to their handling.

## Townspeople To Help Harvest

Man-hours can be saved by proper arrangement of the crews, but this depends on the variable conditions in the orchards. Man-hours can also be saved in training men to handle their equipment and to employ a minimum amount of movement and effort. In cooperation with vocational agriculture and community land-use planning committees, the educational committee of the Farm Labor Supply Council has arranged to carry out a job-training program whereby orchard operators and foremen will train apple pickers. The output per worker is expected to be increased substantially by this program.

Man-hours consumed in thinning can be reduced by spending more time on pruning, such as pruning in more detail and cutting back pendent limbs, probably as much as one-third of their length or more. Experiments are being carried out in Oregon in regard to the use of toxic sprays. The sprays are put on in strips and at certain critical periods, which will have the effect of eliminating the development of a large number of blossoms. The flail method of beating off apricots, used to some extent on peaches, reduced the number of man-hours required to complete the same operation by hand.

Harvesting labor might be used more efficiently if, instead of having fancy and extra-fancy grades of fruit, a combination grade be used which would reduce color picking. Any reduction of color picking, whether by relaxing or an agreement on a combination

grade, would reduce man-hours in picking and facilitate handling of the fruit in the orchard. With a combination grade, growers would not tend to wait for color. Thus, the period of picking might be extended by a week or 10 days, providing fuller utilization of available labor supply and a better opportunity to save the crop, especially in the event of an early frost. From 12 to 20 percent of the man-hours used in packing and warehousing could be saved, according to

estimates of packing and warehouse managers. The capacity of grading and packing facilities would be increased, facilitating more rapid intake of fruit from the orchards. In the event a price ceiling on apples is established, adoption of a combination grade might be advantageous, because it is expected that the price of this grade would approach the ceiling price, thus no loss to growers would be caused by eliminating the extra-fancy grade.

## An Indian hunting party

If Mr. Hitler and his erstwhile cohorts are wondering why their whisper campaign among the Indians that they are the "true Aryan race" has failed, they can find the answer at the Fort Kipp school on the Fort Peck Reservation in northeastern Montana when the Toiling Tillies and the Handcrafters 4-H Clubs gather scrap.

The youngsters divided into two teams, the Tigers, led by Ervin Four Bear; and the Bear Cubs, with Almena Pretty Necklace as their leader. On Saturday, they gathered at the school grounds with four buckboards and teams, and the race was on to see which side could gather the most scrap..

Without any motivation from their 4-H leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Val Matross, the drive quickly took on the form of any old-time Indian hunting party. A scout on horseback rode ahead of the teams to contact those who

had material to donate, and came back post haste to report the results.

Old bedsteads, tubs, dishpans, junked cars, all felt the "scalping" knife. A battered tub became a war drum; and as the wagons began to roll back to the school and the war songs of the Sioux and Assiniboin rang out, it would have cheered the hearts of many of the youngsters, brothers, and uncles who are now fighting in the armed services of the United Nations.

As a climax to the drive, over the hill leading to the schoolhouse came a 2-year-old toddler carrying an old dishpan. "I brunged some scrap to help win the war," she lisped as she added the pan to the 8 tons of scrap that was stacked beside the school gymnasium.—*Dora Clark, home demonstration agent, Roosevelt County, Mont.*

## Lectures with slides

Sufficient experience has been accumulated in the use of the new type-cued lecture for slide films to indicate its value. An exact lecture is supplied which carries throughout the text cues in the form of frame numbers. Two copies of the lecture are provided, one for the reader and the other for the operator.

The instructions call for a rehearsal with the operator, preferably complete but in any case reading at least half the lecture with the slides projected on the screen. The reader ignores the cues; but the operator, following the lecturer on his copy, changes frame whenever the reader reaches a cue number in the lecture. The effect is almost magical. At the proper word, the picture on the screen changes to the object or scene described.

Of course the lecture can be adapted to meet local conditions, but when the films are used without the lecture, or with an *ad lib* lecture, the effect on the audience is not always the one desired. Several persons who have heard the same film presented as prepared, and also with an informal talk, have expressed preference for the prepared version. They claimed they got more benefit from it in that form.

Most popular of the new type films are the gardening sets: 634, Gardening for Victory, Part I; 635, Gardening for Victory, Part II; 641, The New Gardener. Almost equal in popularity are 630, Labor Efficiency on the Farm; and 638, Finding Minutes, the home equivalent of 630.

## Up to date

Lecture notes for slidefilm 503, "Insect Pests of the Vegetable Garden," have been modernized and brought into line with current restrictions on insecticides. At the same time, the form of the notes has been changed to the increasingly popular cued-lecture type.

Copies of the revised notes have been filed with each extension editor. Agents and specialists who own a copy of this film can get the new version by writing the Extension Service and asking for "New Lecture for 503." A postal card will do, but be sure to include your address.

A WARTIME COURSE in agriculture and homemaking for Michigan women, sponsored by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and Michigan State College, was given on the East Lansing campus from April 19 to May 1. Women enrolled for courses in clothing and home conservation, home food supply in wartime, operation and care of farm machinery, farm dairying, farm poultry, fruit production, health, and recreation. "Each course," stated R. W. Tenny, director of short courses, "presented practical solutions to the food, clothing, machinery, and farm-production problems created by war."

## Everyone uses victory cannning center

MRS. CLARA ANDERSON, Home Demonstration Agent, Pueblo County, Colo.

Victory cannning started in Pueblo with the establishment of a cannning center equipped to make possible the processing of 800 quarts a day of canned fruits and vegetables. The center is sponsored by the American Women's Voluntary Services and is located at the Riverside School annex. All persons living in Pueblo and vicinity are invited to use the center at a nominal charge.

Seventeen electric stoves have been installed at the center, a work table for each stove, and 24 pressure cookers—each of which holds 16 quart jars. Time-saving devices, as apple peelers, pea shellers, cherry pitters, and out-door wash racks, are there for the use of all.

The women using the center may order through the center the products they wish to can or have them delivered there for their convenience. Jars filled and processed at the center must be left for 24 hours, and individuals are given locker space to store jars until they are taken home.

Mrs. A. F. Spencer, member of one of Pueblo County's home demonstration clubs, is supervisor of the cannning center. Mrs. Spencer has had many years of experience in home preservation of food and will give instruction in cannning at the center to those who wish it. Mrs. James Dunn, also a home demonstration club member, is assisting Mrs. Spencer.

Night classes are held for employed women and those who cannot leave their children during the day. If members of an organization wish to can as a group, arrangements may be made for them to do so.

JAMES W. DAYTON was recently appointed State leader of county agricultural agents in Massachusetts. Mr. Dayton has been county agent at large since 1935. Previous to that, he was agricultural agent in Plymouth County, Mass.

# Oregon organized for action

1943 plans to meet a critical labor shortage are based on successful experiences in harvesting last year's crop.

The greatest acreage of farm crops and the largest livestock, milk, and poultry output in the history of the State was the record last year of Oregon farmers. More important, this record-breaking production was harvested and handled with almost no loss. These Oregon farmers faced all obstacles familiar to production and harvest in these war-emergency days. Perhaps the main obstacle, labor shortage, was more acute here and in other coast States than in many places, because the Pacific coast cities were then as now teeming centers of war industry. Aircraft construction and shipbuilding are at the top of a long list of war requirements. In addition, many huge cantonments and smaller military camps were under construction in the Pacific area. These buzzing factories and shipyards and construction camps, all with high wage scales had, by the spring of 1942, depleted the rural regions of their labor supply.

Early in the crop season, it was apparent that a crisis was developing. As the season progressed, unusually favorable for crop growth, the task ahead loomed even more formidable in its proportions. But in the end the harvests were secure. The problem was met. Cooperation did it. All Federal and State agencies and civic groups worked together to forecast needs, organize available labor supplies, to recruit labor from all available sources, and to implement its distribution to localities and enterprises where previous surveys and unexpected emergencies disclosed need.

## Extension Organizes Field Operations

Procedure centered around the United States Employment Service, which had branch offices in the larger county-seat cities—22 in all. In some counties were branch offices outside the county seat as well—to account for 18 more. Serving as an overhead or coordinating group was the State Agricultural Advisory Committee appointed by the Governor. Committee members were nearly all farmers or food processors. Three or four members were representatives of public agencies. Organizing field operations was the task of the Extension Service. County war boards, county planning committees, chambers of commerce, the schools, and even churches assisted. The Farm Security Administration was active also and organized and maintained farm labor camps for itinerant workers to handle peak loads of crops such as sugar beets in Malheur County and the potato harvest in Klamath County.

The first step was to organize in each county a farm-labor committee of farmers

which was a subcommittee of the agricultural planning committee already functioning in every county. This was done by the county agents and local representatives of the United States Employment Service under the general direction of the Extension Service farm-labor project leader who was collaborating closely with the State officials of the Employment Service. These farm-labor subcommittees, the county agent acting as secretary, served as the local contact in county-wide surveys to determine in advance the approximate number of persons needed in the various regions for different cultural operations from planting time through harvest. The Extension Service project leader on labor directed and co-ordinated these steps.

With results of these county studies at hand, labor needs as to volume, time, and place could be determined in advance; and plans could be made to meet the shortages in time for action.

## Study Made of Labor Supply

Hand in hand with this determination of requirements, a study of the local labor supply was made. A State-wide listing of available womanpower was made, and an organization to bring it into effective use was set up. County committees were established and leaders appointed in each community. Women were registered with notation as to the time they would have available and the type of work they would be willing to do, with the understanding that they might be called at any time the emergency demanded. The State Department of Education cooperated by establishing a register of school children.

District conferences of county agents were held, attended by the farm-labor project leader. At these conferences, all phases of the problem and their methods of solution being developed were considered, and plans for coordination were outlined.

Members of the central extension and experiment station staffs cooperated with the farm-labor project leader. They assisted on the survey of labor requirements by determining the man-labor requirements for each acre and each animal unit of the important farm commodities, by operations and by months. This added accuracy to the conclusions following the county surveys of needs. With a substantially accurate forecast of needs by locality and season now established in the hands of the Employment Service and Extension Service, all interested agencies and groups were advised. The Employment Service, which held responsibility for definite

recruitment, thus was enabled to work effectively with the county farm-labor subcommittees in meeting the deficiency situations as they developed.

When organization plans and procedures were under way, a series of district conferences of farm labor subcommitteemen was held in collaboration with the State and county war boards, the Employment Service, Selective Service, and the Governor's Advisory Committee.

Procedure to date and that in prospect were reviewed. Selective Service regulations were explained by appropriate authorities. Crop outlook statistics prepared by the extension project leader and the Bureau of Crop Estimates were presented. All labor subcommittee members in the State returned home fully informed on the entire program.

With this lone schedule of careful and extensive planning completed, the stage was believed set to supply labor to points in need. And so it proved. Details of the method varied in the different counties according to crops involved, time of labor deficiency, and local labor supplies available. In the big-scale wheat harvesting operations in the Columbia Basin counties, for instance, women could be of little assistance; whereas, in the fruit, truck crop, and cannery areas in the Willamette Valley, the help of women and young people saved the day.

The harvest was ready. Farmers needing hands appealed to the local Employment Service office where they were located, or, where no office was maintained, to the county agent; and help was forthcoming. A seasonal need for a very large volume of labor being in the forecast in a certain area, for instance, the Farm Security Administration was asked for a transient camp. A shorter peak, strawberry picking or green bean harvest, was at hand in another area, for example. In this case, the register of women, businessmen available for part-time work, and school children was used. Cities and small towns frequently closed business for certain hours, when all hands joined in the harvest. Bookkeepers, clerks, professional men, and even business leaders took time to pick berries, beans, and hops, and to work in the canneries. By their side, often, were wives and children, all contributing to the common cause. As fall approached, schools in emergency areas postponed opening until the harvesting situation was in hand.

## Women and School Children Help

The school-age group was an important source of labor supply. In all, more than 42,000 school youngsters are included in placement records of the Employment Service. These records also show 35,500 men and 19,500 women placed on the State's 62,000 farms. These figures do not tell the story, however. Because the unified plan was accepted by so many organizations and the resulting State-wide understanding of

procedure, a blanket of authentic publicity covered the State. Newspapers, radio programs, and civic organizations spread the word, and the result was that much of the labor available contacted employers without registration and formal placement by the official agency.

Plans for 1943 already developed in Oregon call for continued cooperation and similar procedure on the part of the farmers and public agencies. Even less man labor is available for the 1943 harvest. But, because of the experience of last year, the organization methods should be even more effective; and there now seems little doubt that Oregon's crops will again be harvested.

### Harvesting Alabama potatoes

Potato growers in Baldwin County, Ala., made good use of the wives and children of nearby Mobile shipyard workers in harvesting their 1942 crop. Many of these women and children were experienced field hands, having left farms to follow the father to better-paying shipbuilding work. During the rush season, these hands were transported to the fields each day.

The greatest disadvantage of this set-up was the fact that farmers who did not have available trucks for hauling labor had to wait until those who did had finished digging and picking up their potatoes. This meant that the man with the truck was in a position to profit by hauling laborers to the farms that made him the best offer. As a result, some potatoes were left in the ground too long. This year, plans are to organize a fleet of labor trucks with a public employee to dispatch them to farms having the most urgent need. This will provide more equitable distribution of labor and will help to prevent damage to potatoes that would result from late harvesting.

### Illinois community meetings

Community meetings are called in Iroquois County, Ill., to devise ways of meeting wartime emergencies, report Dorothy Iwig and John E. Wills, district supervisors of the wartime educational programs. A central unit for the exchange of canning equipment and produce meets the need in most communities. Here the canning equipment in the county, the amount and kind of surplus produce, and the time it will be available are listed so that the fullest use can be made of everything. In several communities, women who have canning equipment are planning to work together on food preservation and to lend their equipment to other groups.

The men in the county are discussing pasture improvement and are checking all farm machinery. They are making suggestions as to the exchange of both machinery and labor in order to make the best possible use of available manpower and equipment.

## Following through with 4-H gardens

HUBERT G. SCHMIDT, Club Agent, Warren County, N. J.

As the guidance of gardening is not a new thing in 4-H work, it has been possible for 4-H Club leaders to step easily into leadership in the present emergency. In New Jersey, the problem of victory gardening was attacked early. In 1942, we did this through the victory corps, a group auxiliary to 4-H. As a result, much good work was done, and valuable lessons were learned. This year, we saw the wisdom of making a full-fledged 4-H'er of any boy or girl who is willing to do his best in the producing and conserving of vital materials. A change in our point of view is shown by the fact that helping in the family garden or helping in the care of the family cow is now considered just as important as taking care of a garden or a cow owned by the club member himself. As greater production is our most important goal, we wish to encourage whatever methods seem most efficient.

In Warren County we have increased 4-H membership from fewer than 500 members to approximately 2,000. However, mere numbers mean absolutely nothing, for it is an easy matter to persuade young folks to become members of an organization which promises them an opportunity to do their bit. More important is the question of whether we can guide that enthusiasm to get maximum results and prevent waste of seed, fertilizer, and effort. Nothing would be more heart-rending than to get these enthusiastic youngsters started, "all pepped up" to do their part in food production, and then let them down. In gardening, especially, be-

cause of the large number of beginners, we must give considerable help as to good practices and details of procedure. Fortunately, we started early and were well prepared to take care of the matter of instruction.

One of the most important things which we did in advance was the organization of a 4-H executive committee for the county. On this committee are 2 representatives from the county board of agriculture, 1 from the Woman's Home Economics Advisory Council, 1 from the Warren County Pomona Grange, 1 from the county parent-teacher association, 1 from the county 4-H council, and 1 from the County Council of Christian Education. Three representative club leaders, the county superintendent of schools, the home demonstration agent, and I bring the total number up to 13—a very lucky number in this case, we think. This committee was formed with a number of specific purposes in mind. First, it acts in an advisory capacity, especially in matters of procedure; secondly, reports of our discussions can be carried back to other organizations by their own representatives; and thirdly, the committee gives us excellent machinery to put in motion when we need assistance. In the fourth place—and this is more important than it may seem—having such a committee helps to promote mutual understanding among our various types of clubs. It is especially important that our older dairy, home economics, and community club leaders see the importance of our school clubs which, in the main, are now doing gardening work.

## Michigan flying farm squadron

The Fowlerville, Mich., Commercial Club of 40 members started a plan in January 1942 to help farmers who were short of manpower and others who ran into such emergency problems as sickness.

Every club member was given an opportunity to indicate the particular kind of farming that he could best do. This information was recorded on his personnel card, and when farmers requested assistance from the Commercial Club "employment bureau" the best-qualified men were sent to the farm. Sometimes one man was requested, and on other occasions as many as five went to the same place to do the job.

The Commercial Club also registered volunteer persons not members of the club. These folks listed their particular qualifications to make it easy for the club to get the right

help in the right place. About 400 store clerks, salesmen, bankers, businessmen, druggists, and other town men were registered as volunteer workers to relieve manpower shortages on farms around Fowlerville.

These men worked on holidays, evenings, and on other days when it was possible to give as little as 2 hours or as much as 12 hours. They helped farmers to plant their spring grains. They cultivated, operated machines, assisted in haying, harvested the grain, picked sugar beets, and did salvage work. In fact, some of the implement dealers in Fowlerville provided machines to do emergency work on some of the farms.

The plan became so well known that the Fowlerville volunteers were named "The Flying Farm Squadron." And it's the same for 1943.

## Simplifying extension leaflets

In carrying out Extension's wartime activities, the problem of preparing readable and forceful leaflets which will interest rural people in all educational levels has become a real one. In spite of the tremendous progress made in recent months in simplifying the extension wartime leaflets used by neighborhood leaders, much more needs to be done. Greater effort must be made to interest further the less-schooled rural people.

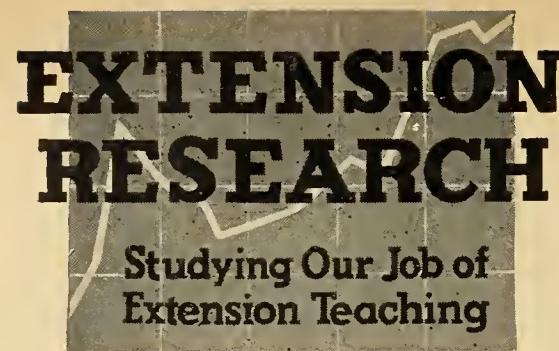
Extension leaflets giving information on the what, why, how, and when of wartime programs are getting wide distribution among all rural families through neighborhood leaders. These "leave-at-homes" are given to farm families at small neighborhood meetings which leaders may hold, at home visits, at chance meetings on the streets, or at the community store. Sometimes the leaflets are left in mail boxes or are sent with other persons attending meetings. These "leave-at-homes" must be prepared so as to be easily understood by all and also be properly distributed so that all the rural people receive them.

### Leaflets Studied

Studies are under way in the Federal Extension office in which extension leaflets are being tested for their readability, according to certain standards being developed; and for their effectiveness, according to criteria set up as a score card. The leaflets are analyzed as follows:

1. Various readability formulas, previously worked out by leading educationists, are applied to leaflets studied.
2. The results of the preceding step are studied to see what factors make the material "easy" or "hard." The leaflets are reread to see how the "hard" factors can be simplified.
3. The type of subject matter is considered to decide whether or not the readability level, as determined by the formulas, seems reasonable.
4. Words not included in the Dale List of 3,000 Easy Words are listed.
5. This list is studied carefully to see how many of the words are not farming terms, "plain country words," or familiar wartime terms. The words that do not fall into these categories are studied to see if they are necessary and if so, are clearly defined.
6. The whole leaflet is then read sentence by sentence. Undefined hard words, meaningless sentences, grammatical errors, and misused words are noted.

Plans are being made with several States to interview farm people personally and get their reactions and response to simplified extension leaflets which supplement the work of neighborhood leaders. The first of this series of State studies was recently completed in North Carolina.



### Simplification Effective

North Carolina's "leave-at-homes" that were checked had been simplified by the use of easy words and short sentences and paragraphs. The leaflets and the meaning of certain words were discussed with homemakers living in less privileged communities.

Generally speaking, the North Carolina homemakers had read and understood the leaflets and had acted upon them. Some knew the meaning of the more difficult words and others did not. In some cases, where a particular word was not known, the meaning of the sentence was clear. For example, one woman said, "I don't believe I know exactly what 'enriched' means now. I did know, and I know if bread is 'enriched' it is better for our health."

Sometimes an emotional rather than an intellectual meaning was conveyed. For instance, a Negro said that "tyranny" in "tyranny of Hitlerism" meant "depression." He did not know the meaning of "tyranny" but from the discussion it was plain that "tyranny" was something he did not want.

The technical word "protein" was used in a soybean leaflet. The word was not generally understood by the families interviewed. Some technical words and hard nontechnical words not only can be included, but often have to be included provided they do not obscure the meaning. In such cases it is desirable to define these words to develop familiarity with them. It is a part of the process of introducing them into the vocabulary of the people, and the people seem to like it.

The words "impending," "spiraling," and "specified" were not understood by the homemakers. One homemaker said, "specified amounts" as used in the statement, "enriched flour is white or near-white flour which has in it specified amounts of at least two vitamins" meant "small amounts." Then she said, "No, 'large' amounts."

It was brought out in the North Carolina study that simpler words could have been used, such as:

| Used  | Suggested |
|---|-----------|
| consumption-----use                         |           |
| impending shortages---threatening shortages |           |
| reclaimed-----fixed up                      |           |
| sufficient-----enough                       |           |
| spiraling prices-----rising prices          |           |
| specified amount-----fixed amount           |           |

*Used*  
edible varieties-----varieties that can  
*Suggested*  
be eaten

### Some Observations From Interviews

"Leave-at-homes" for the neighborhood-leader system can be simplified so that families with less education can read and understand them.

Leaflets are effective if they are short and concise, and suggest that they can be read quickly; if they are easy to read and understand; and if they tell the family what to do, why, and how to do it. A picture or drawing on the leaflet helps to attract attention and arouse interest. It can also convey the central idea of the leaflet.—*READABILITY OF LEAFLETS USED IN NEIGHBORHOOD-LEADER SYSTEM IN NORTH CAROLINA*, by Gladys Gallup and Fred P. Fruthey of the Federal Extension Service; and Ruth Current and other North Carolina Extension Service staff members. (Study unpublished.)

### Iowa Bulletins Help Farmers

Some 600 Iowa farmers were asked if they were receiving war-production pamphlets. Half of them said "yes," and the other half "no." However, of four different pamphlets distributed through neighborhood leaders, each has had a wider circulation than the one before.

The first publication, *Keep 'Em Eating*, reached about 44 percent of the farmers in the sample. The second one, *Livestock Feeding Budget*, reached about the same proportion. But the next two picked up, with 54 percent saying they received the fourth publication, *Fight Diseases of Livestock*. From 57 to 78 percent of the farmers receiving the leaflets said they found them useful.

Almost equal proportions of owners and tenants had received these pamphlets. A greater percentage of the large- than of the small-scale operators reported receiving the publications. However, the small-scale farmers seemed to use them to better advantage. For instance, 65 percent of the small farmers receiving *Keep 'Em Eating* said they were influenced by it, as compared with 59 percent of the larger operators. The difference was considerably greater on two of the other leaflets.—*PAMPHLETS ON PARADE*, by C. Arnold Anderson and Bryce Ryan, *Iowa State College, Jan.-Feb. 1943, Iowa Farm Economist*.

### 4-H rifle club

The Chatham County 4-H Rifle Club, the first of such clubs to be organized in Georgia, was granted a charter by the National Rifle Association. The club was organized because of a desire on the part of County Agent A. J. Nitzschke to teach good sportsmanship, conservation and utilization, and the skilled use of firearms in the present war program rather than the destruction of wildlife.

# Tennessee puts second-hand machinery back to work

■ Victory committeemen and women helped to make a survey of machinery in Tennessee during the winter, which showed that many farmers had machinery which was not being used. Much of the equipment could be used to help in the production of food and feed if some repair work were done.

Although considerable work had been done by the extension engineers, still agriculture had not put its production equipment in complete condition for victory. In the 70 counties reporting in the survey, there were 143,693 units of machinery needing important repairs for effective work; and repair parts had been made available.

Advanced training was given to 638 farm machinery repairmen at meetings held at central locations throughout the State, and 1,128 farmers were given personal help and instruction with their repair jobs. The work is continuing all the time that farmers are not in the field. Vocational education repair shops cooperated splendidly.

At meetings held by county agents, 10 percent of the 16,000 tractor owners were instructed by experts from tractor, fuel-oil, and

rubber-tire manufacturing companies on how to keep their tractors in the fields operating economically and out of repair shops.

Victory committeemen made lists of all farm machinery for hire, sale, or exchange, showing the community, the victory committeemen, and the names and addresses of owners. Mimeographed lists were sent to all committeemen so that farmers needing such equipment and services would know where to find it. County newspapers also published the information. Most of the 4,599 machinery items reported for sale have changed owners.

Extension Director C. E. Brehm said in the Tennessee victory committee letter that victory committeemen could be of great service in seeing that the labor and machinery in their communities are utilized to the fullest extent and in encouraging the exchange of labor and equipment among neighbors.

After making the survey, victory committeemen are familiar with the equipment on their neighbors' farms and are of much assistance in seeing that all such equipment is utilized to the best possible advantage.

time as is necessary at the State Extension office to coordinate the farm-labor activities of the USES with those of the Extension Service.

## Quadruple their quota

Reports of a most successful farmers' bond and stamp week come from St. Martin Parish, La. County Agent Stanley Angelle was chairman, ably assisted by Home Demonstration Agent Rosabelle Guillory and Assistant Agent R. J. Badeaus, Jr., the parish AAA officer, and victory leaders. Seventeen neighborhood meetings were scheduled, and letters were sent out to all victory leaders and AAA committeemen. Victory leaders were responsible for getting their farmers to the meeting. On farm visits and at 4-H meetings, home demonstration club meetings, and public meetings, the buying of bonds was emphasized. The priests and principals of the parish announced the drive. Farmers who had an exceptionally good harvest were visited with great success.

A free supper was offered by two businessmen to all farmers who bought a \$25 bond. Many of the bonds bought were distributed at the supper which was a gala affair. When the chairman announced the results of their efforts, it was found that more than four times the quota of \$18,000 had been sold, or \$72,990 in war bonds. As special guests, seven local boys in the Army and Navy who happened to be in the parish were featured. The speaker of the evening was C. E. Kemmerly, Jr., farm organization specialist from Baton Rouge.

# Farm labor gaps being closed in areas of Illinois

■ Recruitment and placement of workers in three special crop areas of the State have touched off field activities in Illinois under the new national farm-labor program designed to furnish needed workers for 1943 wartime food and fiber production.

P. E. Johnston, State supervisor of the program of the Illinois Extension Service, says that eight major "fronts" have been laid out in the Illinois attack upon the problem. Of these, the one of most immediate urgency is the placement of labor in special crop areas.

First of these areas is the asparagus territory around Vermilion County, where a unit of the Victory Farm Volunteers has been formed.

Three hundred high-school students at Hoopeston and Rossville will be released from classes part of each day when needed and will work in the asparagus fields as victory farm volunteers throughout the cutting season. Supervising the volunteers in each field will be men and women instructors from the high schools who will be paid by the canners. Three canneries at Hoopeston alone have between 700 and 800 acres of asparagus which must be harvested and processed.

In another of the State's labor-deficit areas, the tomato and seed corn territory around McLean County, a program already is under way to recruit and place a total of 3,515 workers and a peak of 2,100 at any one time. These are the manpower needs estimated by the pea, tomato, and sweet-corn canneries and the seed-corn producers of the area. Working through the local farm-labor committee, townspeople, churches, schools, defense councils, civic organizations, and businessmen will cooperate in supplying the needed workers.

Similar steps are being taken in the strawberry region of Union and Jefferson Counties, another seasonal crop area where an immediate shortage must be met. Other labor-deficit areas will be organized in the same way when the need arises.

P. E. Johnston, as State supervisor, has on his staff W. D. Murphy, assistant State supervisor; H. L. Jepson, assistant supervisor, Victory Farm Volunteers; Mrs. Mary Ligon, assistant supervisor, Women's Land Army; and F. G. Campbell and L. F. Stice, district supervisors. In addition, Russell L. Kelly, farm placement supervisor of the United States Employment Service, will spend such

## 4-H bee club

The sugar shortage is no worry for the Deep Rock 4-H Club members of Payne County, Okla. When sugar rationing started, they went into the bee business. Starting with Billy Etchison's colony of bees, which had been given to him by a local apiarist, the club members have 25 colonies of bees. The interest did not stop with the youngsters. The dads, too, like sweets, and they have joined in the project and now have 15 colonies in the neighborhood. Some of the hives have already produced 75 pounds of honey.

## On the Calendar

- 4-H Club Radio Program, Farm and Home Hour, Blue Network, July 3.
- World Cotton Research Congress, Dallas, Tex., July 8-9.
- International Baby Chick Association, Chicago, Ill., July 20-22.
- 4-H Club Radio Program, Farm and Home Hour, Blue Network, August 7.
- National Food Distributors Association, Chicago, Ill., August 18-21.

# The Once Over

## Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

FARM LABOR PROBLEMS occupy much of the agents' time this month, but the difficulties are being overcome. Crop Corps workers' ingenuity and cooperation are doing the trick. Good stories of successful labor and machinery pools, townspeople pledging their spare time, high school boys and girls harvesting fruits and vegetables, women of the Land Army winning the praise of hard-pressed farmers can be found in almost any agricultural area.

LESS THAN A MONTH after the Extension Service was given the responsibility for much of the farm labor program, budgets and plans of work had been sent to Washington and approved for practically every State, and the first allotment of funds had been certified. These plans call for about 7,000 additional labor assistants, most of them on a part-time basis for county recruitment, placement, and supervision. Most of the States were visited during the last 2 weeks in June by some member of the Federal staff. Some examples, among many, of how labor difficulties are being met are given here.

NORTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS—nearly 12,000 of them—took leave from the classroom to assist in planting North Dakota's 1943 war crops, according to a checkup made by extension agents and the USES. Alabama was one of the first States to report the organization of a voluntary Land Corps of 481 nonfarm high school boys. On May 1 the boys began work helping to harvest and pack Baldwin County's 5,000-car Irish potato crop.

A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE CANVASS in Franklin and other towns in Johnson County, Ind., to get emergency farm workers resulted in 226 persons signing up to help set tomato plants, 153 to harvest sweet corn, 186 to help with hay and wheat harvests, 222 to pick tomatoes, and 140 to pack fruit. Story County, Iowa, farmers reported to the agent that about 200 extra workers would be needed in the vegetable fields and canning plants, and to detassel hybrid corn. Local business and club groups made a 10-day drive to register workers with a house-to-house canvass in 19 cities and towns.

PRAISE FROM THE NEWSPAPER sounded good to the ears of hard-working extension agents in 7 middle Tennessee counties who had worked early and late on the strawberry-harvesting problem. The Nashville Banner of June 2, editorializing on the campaign, said: "This is farm relief along the most practical lines. It outdoes in results all the

conferences and weighty decisions that centralized authorities can hold and announce. It is the straight line between two points, and shows the ability of men on the scene—in touch with local problems—to most effectively deal with those problems. It is, in short, the final and clinching argument in favor of local management for local affairs."

HEALTH IS THE COUNTY GOAL of home demonstration clubs in Franklin County, Va. The State Health Department supplied instruction for 12 community classes in home nursing, and 211 certificates were given to those completing the course. Club members are now studying safety on the farm and using check sheets to find out what improvements need to be made.

MAINE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS awarded 2,500 certificates of merit to rural women for completing a nutrition course taught by home demonstration agents and food leaders in more than 200 rural communities during the past few months.

ELLA GARDNER MEMORIAL LOAN FUND was raised by voluntary contributions of Iowa 4-H girls, their leaders and their friends in memory of Ella Gardner, a member of the Federal Extension staff, who had helped them to "stand, sit, and think tall." The fund supplies three \$100 loans for former 4-H girls in their sophomore year at Iowa State. "She shared her beauty of spirit and her wholesome thinking so generously, her memory and

teaching will live on," commented the committee in making the presentation.

WARTIME 4-H ALL-STAR CONFERENCE held in California late in April adopted the slogan, "Twice as much in '43." This means something, since last year these 56 delegates produced 430,576 pounds of pork, beef, poultry, meat, milk, and sugar, plus 15,593 dozen eggs. The young folks chose their own topics for discussion which included among other things, Food Production During and After the War, 4-H Club Community Projects as Related to the War Effort, and Neighborhood Leaders in 4-H Club Work.

MILK PRODUCTION POSTERS were sent to county agents in June to help with the 8-point program to attain the highest possible dairy production in 1943. The Dairy Industry Committee working with the War Food Administration in this program represents the 7 national associations for butter, cheese, dry milk, evaporated milk, fluid milk, ice cream, and dairy machinery. More home-grown feeds and more efficient utilization of them are the high points of the program.

"FOR THIS WE FIGHT"—an NBC radio program on the Inter-American University of the Air every Saturday evening from 7 to 7:30 during June, July and August gives some ammunition for discussion groups interested in talking over post-war issues. Cooperating with the Commission to study the organization of peace and the Twentieth Century Fund the series presents many distinguished speakers on thought-provoking topics.

A BULLETIN RACK IN A GENERAL STORE in each town in the county is helping the people of Bon Homme County, S. Dak. to keep informed, according to Audrey McCollum, home demonstration agent, and George Feiler, county agent. In Tyndall, the county seat, the rack is in the ration board office where it catches the eye of a great many people.

THE HIGHEST RATING as a character-forming organization is given the 4-H Club program in an article by Edward Miller of the American Friends Service Committee in the May-June issue of The Camping Magazine.

COMBINE OPERATORS were trained for the Kentucky harvest at a series of 15 short courses. Local implement dealers and representatives of manufacturers cooperated. It is estimated that there are 2,500 combines in Kentucky to harvest small grain, clover and other legume seed, grass seed, soybeans, and to clean hemp seed. Many will serve the whole community and all must be kept in good repair. The training course brought out one mowing machine which, because of careful lubrication and good care, had given good service since 1896.

## EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW

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